

The Logan Republican

Published by the
REPUBLICAN PUBLISHING CO.
Logan, Utah

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J. C. Allen Jr., Secy. and Manager

Entered at the post office every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at Logan Utah, as second class matter.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

By Mail	
One Year	\$3.00
Six Months	1.50
Three Months75
By Carrier	
One Year	\$3.50
Six Months	1.75
Three Months90

If not paid in advance add fifty cents per year extra.

Subscribers wishing the address of their paper changed will please give former as well as their present address. All papers are continued until explicit order is received by us to discontinue. All arrears must be paid in every case.

SOME CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS

Two years ago at this Christmas time, it would have seemed horribly incredible that armies of professed Christians, followers of Him who came to bring peace, should be barbarously killing each other. Yet the progress of the world cannot be judged by any two years period. For the past century the prevailing condition in the Christian world has been peace. A few hundred years ago, the normal, usual condition was war.

So the world does move. Up to the Christian era it was stationary. Just what happened in that little town of Bethlehem must always be a matter of the most doubtful speculation. Theologians will always argue to what unique union of the spirit of God and the flesh of man took place in that mystic event called the Incarnation.

This much should be evident to the everyday person who knows no philosophy and can form opinions merely from observation and cursory reading. That when Jesus came, a movement was started that is revolutionizing the world. Slowly it makes progress against the soul of the brute within us. But it is not to be judged by those who profess its teachings, but by their beliefs, lives and deeds, belief and flout its laws and spirit.

The principles of Jesus have led to the emancipation of woman, they have produced tender care and nurture of children, they have led to pity for the weak, suffering, and the oppressed, they have softened the lot of prisoners, they have made war the exceptional and unusual thing. Out of these teachings has grown vast modern fabric of efficient and organized charity, with infinite manifestations of personal sympathy.

Christmas should mean more to us than a jolly exchange of gifts and the sweet influences of family joy. It is the birthday of the soul that has lifted in part the burden of the world's woe, and will lift the rest, when stupid human nature opens toward the morning light.

MEN AND WEDDINGS

The great amount of newspaper space that has been allotted to the plans of Mrs. Galt for the presidential wedding is typical of the predominance of all brides. She is for the moment even more a national figure than her illustrious husband, who shares to some extent the common obscurity of bridegrooms.

In our everyday life, the man who is being married may not be distinguishable in dress or other appearance from the head waiter, and may attract no more attention. Meanwhile the bride's dress, adornment, facial expression, and taste, is discriminatingly canvassed in feminine circles for many days.

All that is asked of the bridegroom is to present himself at the exact moment attired suitably for the occasion. This is usually easy, but not always so. There are not lacking bridegrooms who on arriving at the bride's home town, find that the precious trunk loaded with their wedding clothes has gone astray. While the bride is calmly preparing for the final task of dressing, the bridegroom and his best man may be frantically searching nearby stations or express cars for the missing baggage.

The bride is traditionally calm and self possessed, the bridegroom is apt to be flustered. Yet all he has to do is to fish out the ring from his vest pocket, and repeat a few words after the minister. Why this embarrassment? Can it be, that more suspicious by nature and training than women, he has a keener perception of the adverse possibilities that exist in any marriage? There are many people, who in crossing the Rubicon of life, even to gain a "onged" for prize, yet falter a bit at the finality of the thing.

All which of course does not apply in any way to the presidential nuptials which were the starting point for these reflections. A second marriage presupposes the settled maturity of feeling and judgment of people who thoroughly know their own minds. With young people making a first union, the human heart must be swayed by many cross currents of passion, romance, and sometimes misgiving.

THE VALUE OF COLLEGE EXAMINATIONS

Records of four leading colleges were presented to the Middle States Association of Colleges and Preparatory Schools a few days ago, on the question of college entrance tests. It was found that those who had been admitted on examination were as a whole better students than those entering on certificate.

The traditional method of sifting applicants for college entrance is by examination. Many generations have passed this dreaded ordeal. They crammed with facts, but might be so flustered on the fateful day as to lose their wits. Others noted dates on their shirt cuffs, or smuggled translations. Selfposessed pupils with meager attainments often made a better showing than those who had done better work but lacked confidence.

These defects in the "exam" system have led a good many colleges to substitute the method of entrance on certificate. Pupils coming from certain approved schools have been allowed to enter on certificate from the lower school that they had done the required work. It looks fairer, the test being based on their aver-

age work for a long period.

The report quoted above suggests that the certificate method has also its defects. There is a common tendency among public school teachers to pass pupil along from year to year, on the ground that if set back they became discouraged and quit school. Thus every class carries about so much dead wood. Where teachers take that view, it becomes natural to pass the pupils along the next step into college. In some of the schools political or social influence may be a factor.

Perhaps the ideal way would be to give equal weight to each kind of test. Every applicant for entrance to college might well be required to take an examination, but equal importance should be attached to his past record. A written test should place but little stress on the remembering of mere facts. The vital question is, Can the pupil express himself well, and does he display a general comprehension of the subject he has taken.

THE WAY TO PAY OUR BILLS

President Wilson, having made quite clear to his political supporters and opponents what he would have Congress do for the national defense, should devote at least one evening of speech to the plans he has in mind for raising money to pay the expenses of government.

If the Administration retains the sugar duty as it properly proposes to do and raises the income and corporation taxes, which it should not but doubtless will do, there will still be a discrepancy of \$50,000,000 or so between estimated income and estimated outgo. A large addition to the budget for national defense will increase this deficit.

The means to secure the necessary income to meet the expenses lies at hand, but our Democratic friends have a strong pride and prejudice to overcome before they adopt it. It is by customs duties that the Treasury may be readily replenished, without making the burden rest heavily upon anyone. In fact in many lines the levy of a higher tariff may be made to serve directly the urgent needs of American industry and thus to contribute to the revival of American prosperity.

The borrowing of large sums of money for the conduct of government in times of peace is inexcusable. The levy of new burdens upon business through corporation and income taxes when business is making a hard and encouraging struggle to get back on its feet is no way to proceed. The reliable money raiser is the tariff, and the war for all its damage to American industry has disclosed new ways to use it for the national advantage.

To the tariff, therefore, let Congress have recourse to put the National Government on a paying basis.—Syracuse Post Standard Republican.

That William J. Bryan is to be the Theodore Roosevelt of the Democratic party now seems clear. President Wilson will face a Congress full of hostilities to his army plans. He will probably find Congress as a whole fairly favorable to a larger navy, but with the traditional party opposition to a standing army and with Bryan at hand to view with alarm, the President will run into some very rough sledding as soon as the session comes together. Mr. Bryan does not want to see Mr. Wilson



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13 Pounds Sugar	\$1.00	3 Packages Corn Starch only	25c
50 Pounds Best Flour.....	\$1.10	12 Cans Milk only	\$1.00
10 Packages Raisins only.....	\$1.00	3 Cans Milk only	25c
1 Package Raisins only.....	10c	1 Package Walter Baker's	
7 Packages Currants only.....	\$1.00	Chocolate	19c
2 Packages Currants only.....	30c	3 Packages Macaroni or	
5 Packages Tree Tea only.....	\$1.00	Spaghetti	25c
1 Package Tree Tea only.....	20c	3 Packages Vermicelli or Egg	
25c Pork and Beans only.....	19c	Noodles	25c
30c Can Cocoa only	20c	16 Pounds Tapioca or Sago.....	\$1.00
3 Cans Tomatoes only.....	25c	25 Bars A1 or A. B. Soap.....	\$1.00
16 Pounds Best Rice only.....	\$1.00	25 Bars Bob White or Crystal White	
14 Pounds Navy Beans only	\$1.00	Soap only	\$1.00
25c Ripe Olives per can only.....	15c	10 Cans Corn or Peas	\$1.00
5 Pounds Walnuts only.....	\$1.00	12 Cans Tomatoes only	\$1.00
15c Salmon per can	10c	Sugar Subject to Market Changes	

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succeed himself, and he proposes to see to it that he does not procure a renomination on a platform of preparedness. Wilson and Bryan are playing a shifty game and the American people will and ought to reject both of these gentlemen and their ideas at the next national election.—St. Louis Times.

Twins.

One strange prejudice is that which the Kafirs entertain against twins, that are held to be most unlucky, although, oddly enough, a twin is always expected to be clever. So pronounced is this dislike that in the old days a woman who had twins for the second time was put to death.

RECOMMENDED FOR CROUP

W. C. Allen, Bosely, Mo., says: "I have raised a family of four children and used Foley's Honey and Tar with all of them. I find it the best cough and croup medicine I ever used. I used it for eight or ten years and can recommend it for croup." Same satisfactory results for coughs and colds. Sold everywhere.—Adv.

Ed Pohl, the Tailor

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CHARACTERS AND SCENE IN
"The Shepherd of the Hills"
LYRIC THEATRE, DEC. 28